

**Adventure Cycling Association**

March 18, 2015

Representative Ed Greef  
State of Montana  
State Capitol  
PO Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620

**Re: Support for HB-604**

Dear Representative Greef,

On behalf of Adventure Cycling Association, I am writing in support of your legislation, HB-604.

For your information, Adventure Cycling is headquartered in Missoula and is the largest cycling membership organization in North America, with nearly 48,000 members. Our mission is to empower and inspire people to travel by bicycle. According to the Montana Nonprofit Association, we are one of the larger non-profits in Montana, employ 38 staff members, and have an annual budget of \$6.3 million. We produce magazines, maps, and tours to help people from all over the world travel by bicycle. We also conduct program work with national, state and local officials to encourage more investment in bicycle and non-motorized transportation facilities.

It is in regards to that last element of our work that I address your bill. For decades, we have supported cost-effective and popular investments in new paved trail facilities throughout the U.S. We have seen a true renaissance in walking and biking on these trails, both for recreation and transportation. In fact, we have seen a surge in demand for these kinds of facilities in all parts of the country. However, with the development of these paved trails has come the realization that, just as with our roadways and other transportation infrastructure, we need to invest in the maintenance and repair of these vital facilities.

HB-604 will at last provide the State of Montana with a fair and appropriate funding mechanism and program to provide for such maintenance. This legislation is especially timely, given the profusion of new paved trails coming online, including the forthcoming connection between Missoula and Lolo as part of the Bitterroot separated trail alongside Highway 93. Much of the trail already in place is showing signs of severe wear-and-tear and would benefit from repairs that could be funded through the program defined by HB-604.

Representative Ed Greef  
March 18, 2015  
Page Two

We applaud you for working with a wide variety of constituencies, including local governments, non-profits and the Montana Department of Transportation, to craft this needed legislation. Please feel free to share this letter and Adventure Cycling's support with others throughout the legislative process.

Thank you for your efforts and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or comments about our position on HB-604.

Respectfully,



Jim Sayer  
Executive Director

150 E. Pine Street  
Missoula, Montana 59802  
406-721-1776

[www.adventurecycling.org](http://www.adventurecycling.org)